



Research, Planning and Stewardship

Rehousing Records

In April, Meghan Barbay and intern Chelsea Lytle completed organizing, rehousing, and relabelling park administrative records in the maintenance shop records room. Park records stored at maintenance date from 1980 to 2011.

Paper documents age and deteriorate through exposure to acid containing containers, dust, insects, and light. Meghan and Chelsea used new storage containers, made of acid-free buffered board, to replace cardboard boxes, loose papers, and stacks of documents, helping to prevent long-term degradation of the administrative records. New archival boxes not only increase the level of preservation, but also to help organize the collection. As a part of this process, contents of the boxes were re-labeled for easier reference. A digitized list of records by shelf will allow quicker access to records when needed.

This project prepares the park for approved funding for cataloging these records into the park museum collection so that they are preserved and available for future managers, researchers, and employees.



Records room after rehousing and relabeling

Nan Johnson Intern Selected



Park superintendent Tammy Duchesne and Intern Chelsea Lytle looking over materials for upcoming ARTS AFIRE! events

Women's Rights National Historical Park (WORI) is proud to announce that Chelsea Y. Lytle of Seneca Falls has been selected as the inaugural Nan Johnson Legacy Fund Intern. The new internship is funded by the Friends of Women's Rights National Historical Park. It is named in honor of Nan Johnson, a Friends founder, former Rochester elected official and former Director, Susan B. Anthony Center, University of Rochester. The internship provides professional development opportunities to advanced students and young professionals through specialized work at Women's Rights NHP.

"We are so excited that Chelsea will join the summer staff as the Nan Johnson Legacy Fund Intern. Her

demonstrated skills and experiences will be put to good use in caring for and sharing park collections with the public," said Park Superintendent Tammy Duchesne.

Lytle will work in the Cultural Resources Division, assisting with two ARTS AFIRE! projects. The July project features historic documents and the work of Texas Tech University Professor Carol Flueckiger. August's project focuses on the Stanton House with Seneca County Arts Council members and landscape artists Tom Hussey of Auburn and Bev Lombardo of Seneca Falls. Lytle will also assist division staff in documenting and conserving park museum collections. The internship lasts through mid-September, 2012.

Imperiled Promise: The State of History in the National Parks Service

Four prominent historians released a new study of the practice of history in the National Park Service. The study was commissioned by the Chief Historian of the National Park Service. It looks at how historians contribute to cultural resource management, preservation, interpretation and other NPS functions and makes recommendations for increasing professional standards, making historical research more available to staff and managers, and creating links between NPS historians and those outside the agency working on agency-related topics.

The report is available at http://www.oah.org/programs/nps/imperiled_promise.html

Putting Negatives “On Ice”

WORI was selected to receive grant funds for cold storage of negatives, reel to reel tapes of early park advisory commission meetings, videos of park events, and other film-based park records.

Why is cold storage important? Data stored on film can last hundreds of years, if kept properly. Cold storage extends the longevity of film-based photographic materials, keeps researchers and museum workers safe by slowing the deterioration and off-gassing of chemicals that can be a health hazard, and provides a physical and temperature barrier to destruction of film in case of fire.

<http://www.nps.gov/museum/coldstorage/html/index.html>

To make sure the records remain available for in house and external researchers while in “deep freeze”, Meghan scanned and labeled negatives before wrapping them for the cold storage unit. The negatives are now on ice.

WORI in the NPS Webcatalog

Letters, books, furniture, documents, dishes, dolls, historic architecture fragments, political buttons, and archeological artifacts recovered during excavations at park sites are among some of the artifacts in the park museum collections. Items are acquired after careful screening against the approved Scope of Collection Statement to document the people, places and events the park preserves and interprets. The items are tracked through museum catalog records describing item, maker, material and use.

Although the park collections include **63,768** items, rarely are they on display.

To make park collections more accessible, we are working toward a goal of uploading 100 WORI artifact photographs and catalog records to the NPS Webcatalog. The Webcatalog, a searchable online database, provides access to thousands of images and records from NPS museum collections. Many parks, including Clara Barton National Historic Site, have records available on the NPS webcatalog.

<http://museum.nps.gov/ParkPagedet.aspx?rID=CLBA1&db=objects&dir=PARKS>

Meghan Barbay and Anne Derosie set up a photo studio at the Hunt House for this project. After artifacts are photographed, images will be attached to catalog records in ICMS (the required Department of Interior Museum Catalog System), and the records will be uploaded for inclusion in the Webcatalog. When our artifacts go live, we’ll let you know!



Meghan Barbay setting up for photographing selected artifacts to be added to the webcatalog.



Looking Forward to ARTS AFIRE!

ARTS AFIRE! events including curator corner talks about park resources continue in July and August. The exhibits and events contribute to the NPS Call to Action.

Carol Flueckiger is the artist-teacher for the uly ARTS AFIRE! art exhibit and workshops. Carol, art professor at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX, uses sunlight to expose cyanotypes, “tattooing” historic handwriting, vintage graphics, and botanical specimens into painted wood panels. Works to date were informed and inspired by materials from early American women’s rights activists, Stanton’s *The Woman’s Bible*, and Anna Akins’ 19th century photographs of British algae.

“Postcards to the Past” features Flueckiger’s works based on park collections, on display July 1-31, with an artist presentation and reception July



Flueckiger at work in her studio.



19. “Postcards to the Past” workshops on July 20-21 guide participants through cyanotype exposures - an alternative photographic process – to create postcards to the past using letters from the park collection about stories of human rights activity before the Civil War. A reception for student artists is July 22.

“En Plein Air,” an exhibit of landscapes and streetscapes by SCAC members Tom Hussey, Auburn and

Bev Lombardo, Seneca Falls, is on display August 3- September 4. Events include an opening reception on August 3, a painting workshop at the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House on August 11, and a reception for student work on August 18.



Catalog number: WOR1 - 7305

Park National Register Documentation Updated

New National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) documentation is now available at <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/testing/nominations/WomensRightsNHPBI.pdf> Public Archeology Laboratory, Pawtucket, RI, edited and revised park documentation under the direction of Elizabeth Igleheart, Northeast Region NRHP Coordinator.

Properties are eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) when they retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to convey significant events, persons, or techniques, or yield important information to history or pre-history.

The new documentation provides a physical description of park sites, a history of the sites, and an assessment of the historic significance of the sites. A context statement provides background information regarding historical events. The Hunt House, M’Clintock House, Stanton House and Wesleyan Chapel are listed on the NRHP as having national significance. The Visitor Center/former Boyce Garage is listed as having local significance.

The Chamberlain House (1 Seneca St., Seneca Falls) and Young House (12 E. Williams St., Waterloo) are not currently eligible to be listed. The Chamberlain House does not retain physical integrity to convey its local significance. The Young House (12 E. Williams St., Waterloo), one of several built for Richard P. Hunt, was extensively altered and insufficient documentation existed to assess the residency of Hunt’s daughter, Mary, for local significance.

“Research Planning and Stewardship” is the newsletter of the Cultural Resources Division at Women’s Rights National Historical Park.

This is the first of two Cultural Resources newsletters planned to be released in 2012.

Staff

Chief of Cultural Resources, Vivien Rose
Park Historian, Anne Derousie
Museum Aide, Meghan Barbay
Nan Johnson Legacy Fund Intern, Chelsea Lytle

Comments? Contact:

Vivien_Rose@nps.gov
Anne_Derousie@nps.gov

Or call Anne Derousie at -
(315) 568-2991 ext. 5001